

Shark Bite Victim Gets Unique Medical Follow-Up



(SANTA FE, PANAMA, April 11, 2006) -- Occupational hazards put a young fisherman out of work when a shark bit through his hand. While surgeons initially sewed skin from his thigh to fill in what the shark took, two weeks later that area had blackened and looked ominous. Thanks to a unique bilateral medical readiness training exercise between the United States and Panama, he was able to get a follow-up assessment in Santa Fe.

Fisherman Udencio Mojica Carrasco from Veraguas visited the make-shift clinics at Escuela Santa Fe and was one of the more unique patients there with a shark-bite to assess. Doctors determined that while the graft had not worked and the new skin had died, they were impressed that their fisherman patient had managed to redress his wound three times a day, such that it was not infected.

“His hand was in remarkably great shape,” said Lt. Col. Dr. Ronald Peveto from Peterson Air Force Base. “All we could do was provide some antibiotic ointment to help him continue to care for the wound and advise him that the blackened graft would eventually slough off and he’d be okay.”



An ominous skin graft to repair a shark bite brought Udencio Mojico Carrasco to Santa Fe for a MEDRETE doc's assessment of his wound.